

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193705
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193705

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 23496 ACTION SECSTATE DATED AUG 12:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23496

FOR D/HA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VN

SUBJECT: AMERICANS WITH RELATIVES IN VIETNAM

REF: STATE 185437

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MR. AND MRS. L. R. COYKENDALL OF C/O KENTRON HAWAII LTD., KWAJALEIN MARSHAL ISLANDS 96555: QUOTE: THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES, UNITED STATES EMBASSY, PARIS, FRANCE. WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN SAIGON HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY IN OBTAINING EXIT VISAS FOR VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS OF US CITIZENS. IF THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT CAN YOU HELP US IN REQUESTING THIS SERVICE? ANY ASSISTANCE YOU CAN PROVIDE WILL BE SINCERELY APPRECIATED. UNQUOTE.
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2. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO ANSWER ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE: QUOTE: INFORMATION WHICH YOU CITED IS INEXACT. AS WE UNDERSTAND CURRENT SITUATION, VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT GRANTS EXIST VISAS TO CERTAIN PERSONS, IN GENERAL TO SOME SPOUSES, CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND MINOR SIBLINGS OF

PERSONS RESIDING ABROAD. MANY OF THOSE WITH RELATIVES IN VIETNAM RESIDE IN FRANCE, WHOSE GOVERNMENT CERTIFIES SUPPORT DOCUMENTS WHICH THE PERSONS IN VIETNAM CAN SHOW TO THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO SHOW THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO SOMEONE RESIDING IN FRANCE. TO DATE THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT APPLIED THE ABOVE CRITERIA FOR DEPARTURE TO RELATIVES IN VIETNAM OF RESIDENTS OF THE U.S. FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN HELPFUL WITH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A VIETNAMESE EXIT PERMIT EVEN IF THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION IS NOT FRANCE. FREQUENTLY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER ON REFUGEES AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ARE ALSO OF ASSISTANCE. WE SUGGEST YOU CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE RED CROSS WITH DETAILS CONCERNING THE PERSON(S) YOU WISH TO ASSIST IN LEAVING VIETNAM. IF THESE PERSONS ALSO HAVE RELATIVES IN FRANCE, WE SUGGEST YOU HAVE THE RELATIVES IN FRANCE CONTACT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS INADVISABLE TO RAISE THE HOPES OF A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS (AND VIETNAMESE) WITH RELATIVES IN VIETNAM THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE THE DEPARTURE OF THEIR RELATIVES. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, SUCH ASSISTANCE AS THE FRENCH, GERMAN, SWEDISH AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS CAN PROVIDE WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF CASES, AND THEN
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ONLY WHEN THE CASE IN GENERAL MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE VIETNAMESE. WE SUGGEST THAT CASES BE SIFTED TO DETERMINE IN WHICH CASES THE RELATIVE(S) FIT THE VIETNAMESE CRITERIA AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER THERE IS ANOTHER SUITABLE RELATIVE IN A THIRD COUNTRY. WHILE FRANCE MAY BE GENEROUS IN THE CASES OF PERSONS WHO COME TO FRANCE AND TAKE UP AT LEAST TEMPORARY RESIDENCE (AND HAVE A LONGER-TERM MAILING ADDRESS IN CASE THEY RETURN TO THE US), WE ARE SURE THAT THE GOF WILL NOT BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE A MASSIVE MAIL-ORDER BUSINESS.
HARTMAN UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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